

BOOKS OF THE WEEK SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

CRITICAL REVIEWS
OF THE SEASON'S
LATEST FICTION

Adventures in Greenwich Village of a Girl With Literary Ambitions—Tale of How a Woman Faced a Difficult Position in Australia—Story by Gordon Gerauld, With a Gambler as the Central Figure—Other Fiction.

CINDERELLA JANE. (Doubleday Page & Co.) By Marjorie Benson Cooke. (\$1.25.)

Jane had literary ambitions, but an editor with half an hour to spare explained to her that putting

A Brief List of Putnam Publications for Spring 1917

Send for Our Complete Descriptive Spring List

These Have Listed Are Now at Your Bookstores

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Fiction

The Beetle
Richard Marsh
12. \$1.50

A mystery story as weird and awesome as Dracula.

Antony Gray, Gardner
Leslie Moore
12. \$1.50

A charming, humanly sympathetic love story by the author of "The Peacock Feather."

The Yeoman Adventurer
George W. Gough
12. \$1.50

A thrilling story of the time of "Bonnie Prince Charlie," having much of the atmosphere of "The Road to Mandalay."

The Stars in Their Courses
Hilda M. Sharp
12. \$1.50

An exceedingly clever novel of heredity, by a new writer of great promise.

Ordeal by Fire
Marcel Berger
12. \$1.50

"It is easy to believe that this novel is literature."—N. Y. Times.

A French "Mr. Belling."

General

Bullets & Billets
Bruce Bairnsfather
12. 18. Full-page, 23. Full illus. \$1.50

Bairnsfather's own account of his war experiences, illustrated with his own drawings. The literary and the comic are blended in a way that is new and original.

The Man in Court
F. D. Wells
12. \$1.50

An account for the layman and the lawyer by a New York Justice, illustrating in untechnical language, and often with subtle humor, the trial of court actions.

Isaac Mayer Wise
Max B. May
12. \$1.50

Mr. May has written a striking history of the life and work of the famous founder of American Judaism, and the most prominent Jewish leader in nineteenth century America.

The Life and Times of David Humphreys
Frank Landon Humphreys
12. 8. 39. Full illus. \$1.50

Mr. Humphreys has failed to give a proper place to American history in this great work, known as "The Life of Washington," a soldier, statesman, and poet.

The Fight for the Republic
Rossiter Johnson
12. 8. 39. Full illus. \$1.50

Dr. Johnson is an acknowledged authority and the reader will receive with interest the accounts of First Bull Run, Falmouth, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Sherman's March, etc.

Life at the U. S. Navy Academy
Ralph Earle, Rear-Admiral, U. S. N.
12. \$1.50

A book immensely interesting to all, and very valuable to the young aspirants to the sea. There is an introduction by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Franklin Roosevelt.

Going Abroad Overland
David M. Steele
12. 13. Full-page illus. 3 Maps. \$1.50

The romance of the States—the author pictures places as on a film, introduces historic characters intimately and exposes events outside of their limitations.

Business Competition and the Law
Gilbert H. Montague
12. \$1.50

A very valuable book for the business man, small or great, in no matter what line. Mr. Montague has been counsel for several of the great industries in the Federal Trade Commission's investigations.

Mrs. Norton's Cook Book
Mrs. J. Y. Norton
Large 12. 64. Pages. \$2.50

A new cook book, containing many recipes that have never been given to the public before, as well as many interesting recipes. A book to tempt the palate.

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Marjorie Benson Cooke.
Portrait by Aloys Bohnen.



Marice Rutledge, author of "Children of Fate" (Stokes).



Gertrude Hall, author of "Aurora the Magnificent" (Century).

Victorian and Albert era—is the direct ancestor of "Armageddon," and concludes rather hysterically, to the fortune of a gambler, bursting over Poperinghe. "Truly, Our Lord and Saviour Christ dies every day—as he does on every page of this book, and in every second of this 7-9-16." But this hardly helps the story.

PETER SANDERS, RETIRED. (Charles Scribner's Sons.) By Gordon Hall Gerauld. (\$1.50.)

What a first rate yarn this is! Mr. Gerauld's central idea, that of the fortunes of a gambler, bursting over Poperinghe, is the unimpeachable attitude of the District Attorney, is sufficiently novel, and the incidents which are developed from this beginning possess originality, humor and much truth to human nature. Peter Sanders, cynic, lover of old books, inwardly a devotee of his fellow men, will engage the reader's sympathetic interest from the start and hold it to the surprising finish.

There is in the tale a remarkable likeness to the spirited fun of Frank Stockton, and every one who has enjoyed Stockton's tales will revel in this. There is not the pure force that Stockton indulged in; or at least it is qualified by a serious and kindly attempt to reveal a man's secret longings and fears that Stockton did not generally venture upon.

To reveal the episodes of the book would be to spoil the reader's pleasure. We may just say that the concluding chapter with its sketch of the unimpeachably righteous and rude District Attorney is capitally good. There are so many men of this type, in whom right-cousness and rudeness go together! Mr. Gerauld has no need to essay three volume fiction if he can continue to blend truth and fun so well in this lighter vein.

THE LADY OF MYSTERY HOUSE. (The Macaulay Company.) By George C. Shedd. (\$1.35.)

Suppose you were a young man and that your uncle had just sent for you. On your appearance he tells you that he has a half interest in a 50,000 acre property in Florida. Two men have already died in their deaths in the preliminary development. He has decided to turn his half interest over to you and you are to go to the spot and take charge. Your partner is a young woman who appears to be the victim of a conspiracy to rob her and yours. The conspirators are now living in her house. She is virtually his prisoner. They have told her that her father sold his interest two weeks before his sudden death. This is untrue.

Suppose all this. Would you not be a young woman? If you couldn't do that, would you follow with marked interest the adventures of a young man who did? Well, rather!

Mr. Shedd has a splendid plot. Despite the banalities of conversation and love-making which mar his pace, the story itself is so good that no one who reads the first chapter is likely to fail to finish the book.

BRINGING OUT BARBARA. (Charles Scribner's Sons.) By Ethel Train.

Barbara's mother was a relentless social bird with the moral urge of a Nietzsche and the cold, brutal efficiency

of a Prussian drill sergeant. We see her grab Barbara on the girl's return from boarding school and put her into the social goose-step. Barbara's father was one of those men who get their gloves made to order and look more because other people use Fifth Avenue. As parents for this nice girl they were about as warm as yesterday's rice pudding. They had homes in Manhattan and Newport, and although they were not commuters, on Long Island, Barbara falls in love with a handsome painter and engages herself to a fortune hunter, while her mother dreams of dukes. Barbara makes her own choice, the last paragraph would indicate, "With one cry he sprang toward me and crushed me in his arms."

It sounds well, but if mother entered at the moment she undoubtedly put an end to that sort of thing. The cry and the crushing were not in her manual. If there are such mothers in real life their Barbaras should turn on them and bite.

THE WICKED JOHN GOODE. (George H. Doran Company.) By Horace W. Scandlin. (\$1.)

John Goode's last name was really something else, this being a "true story," but he was very bad. In boyhood he appears to have been entitled to membership in the Never Had a Chance Club, but the wickedness of his mature years was sheer causelessness. For he had a dozen chances to go right. He married a decent woman for her money and then robbed her of it. He got a job as a policeman in New York and almost killed a man with a seltzer bottle. He drank strong waters and his speech was coarse. There is a lot about the brutality of prison keepers, men evidently 10 per cent as vicious as John Goode himself. John reformed at a Bowers mission and Mr. Scandlin attributes his conversion to religion, but John was getting on in years and almost everybody reforms some time. The book has a really introduction by Thomas Mott Osborne.

PETUNIA. (E. P. Dutton & Co.) By Mrs. George Wemyss. (\$1.50.)

When Col. Hammond died and his heirs had assembled to bed in his will it was discovered that he had left all of his property to his daughter Petunia. There was, however, a clause in the will that after all gave the five brothers a chance to hope. The property was to be Petunia's only so long as she remained a single, and in the case of her marriage the property and money were to revert to the eldest brother subject to such sums of money as should go to his younger brothers and sisters. So Petunia, instead of being poor Petunia, as she had always thought that she would be, was rich Petunia, the mistress of a beautiful house and grounds. But in cottages to the north, south, east and west of her were her four sisters-in-law. This was all in accordance with Col. Hammond's scheme to keep his family around him. "Edith to the west, Elizabeth to the east, Stella to the south, Constance to the north, and Helen beneath her roof." She wondered why her brothers had chosen any of them; she could have been perfectly happy without them and they had worried her father. How her brothers and their wives, their plans all upset by the provisions of the will, went about finding a husband for her and how she circumvented them by choosing for herself is the story that Mrs. Wemyss

tells, a story as wholesome as "Jaunty in Charge," with a delicate humor and some deftly drawn characters.

LOUISBOURG SQUARE. (Macmillan.) By Robert Cutler. (\$1.50.)

For any one who knows and loves that quaint, kindly and perhaps ultra-refined society that still lingers in Boston on the western slope of Beacon Hill Mr. Cutler's book "Louisbourg Square" will be a delight and a joy. And to those who do not know it the story will come as a revelation of a sort of life not found elsewhere in our American cities and rapidly disappearing even from the scene in which the author has so skillfully depicted it. It is a love story of the outgoing American aristocracy—the aristocracy of birth, intellect and manners. In it the newer aristocracy of wealth has no place. But it's not sociological study, only a sweet and engrossing tale, in which the participants are distinctly human beings even though they do belong to the Boston Brahmin class. One strange revelation, one touch of a scandal so old that it should long before have died out, does at the last threaten the happiness of Rosalind and Eric, but the author has cleverly concealed it throughout the course of the story, and far be it from us to reveal it now. The book is a notable contribution to spring fiction and well worth reading.

THE MADNESS OF MAY. (Charles Scribner's Sons.) By Meredith Nicholson. (\$1.)

With the irresponsibility of a musical comedy and the swift movement of a motion picture "The Madness of May" by Meredith Nicholson, sweeps the reader over hills and dales of blithe romance and fantastic adventures. May to Mr. Nicholson is neither a person nor a month. It is a state of mind and an intoxication of spirit. The little tale is a gay and joyous fantasy that

plays with the imagination like the wind through new leafed trees.

NADINE NARSKA. (Wilmart Publishing Co.) By Baroness de Meyer. (\$1.35.)

All the romantic machinery known to the novelist is employed in "Nadine Naraska," by Baroness de Meyer. From the birth to the death of the neurotic and eccentric young heroine the reader is spared few details of what the author is pleased to call the awakening of her spirit. The story is told in three parts, each being devoted to a love episode. The figure of a shad-owy Oriental mystic who shapes the tangled destiny of more than one of the characters is effectively introduced. The story moves over many of the pleasant places of Europe and India, and concerns itself with people who are unaware that there are more noble emotions in life than they themselves are capable of experiencing.

CHILDREN OF FATE. (Frederick A. Stokes Co.) By Marice Rutledge. (\$1.35.)

Rarely have the ideals and the arguments of Internationalism been presented more cleverly than in "Children of Fate," by Marice Rutledge. They are woven around a touching little story of an American girl and her French lover. The girl sees only horror and hideous waste in the great war, her lover feels the mighty spirit of his nation reawakened in him, while at the same time he needs and longs for the inspiration of her faith in the beauty and nobility of his cause. There is a well drawn picture of a French family, compact and almost stolid in their sacrifices, but with a spiritual vision that brings them the consolation that is denied to the individualistic American.

AN ALABASTER BOX. (D. Appleton & Co.) By Mary E. Wilkins Freeman and Florence Morse Kingsley. (\$1.50.)

Friends of the Miss Wilkins of twenty years ago, who through the medium of the short story interpreted New England life as it has never been done since, will find little cause for happiness in her last book, "An Alabaster Box," written in collaboration with Mrs. Kingsley. Mrs. Freeman's novels have been interesting chiefly as disclosing her greater facility in the field of the short story. She has never shown skill in handling long plots, though she has persistently endeavored to do so.

The marks of collaboration on "An Alabaster Box" are clear and plain. Mrs. Freeman has supplied the characters, Mrs. Kingsley the plot. Neither will add to the literary reputation of the writers. The plot, which has to do with the efforts of a young girl to rehabilitate her bank wrecking father's reputation, is as good as Mrs. Freeman has ever done. But they are in the wrong medium. She should resolutely take them out of book covers and put them into the short stories where they belong.

Unlike many critical writers he is not pessimistic about the state of American fiction. He says:

"For a time maturity, penetration and simplicity, as well as for remarkable vigor and directness, nearly all living American writers of fiction must yield to Gertrude Atherton. There is no more perfect ornamentation in her work, but a good deal of finish. It is worth noting that in the end some of the writers most sought even by the magazines of largest circulation are the artists, not the merchants. The writer without a literary conscience and a literary backbone has no assured future. It is to the men and women who have made their craft a fine art that editors and book publishers eventually come pleading most earnestly—among Americans to such writers as Booth Tarkenton, Edith Wharton, Gertrude Atherton, Winston Churchill and Fannie Hurst."

The book deserves the high praise bestowed upon it by experienced artists and will win the gratitude of many a promising aspirant.

WHEN SOPHIE KERR FINDS TIME TO WRITE.

"I should like to say that I was a child prodigy in a literary way, but it wouldn't be true," modestly declares Sophie Kerr, whose first novel, "The Blue Envelope," has just been published by Doubleday, Page & Co. "I wasn't even selected to write and read an essay on graduation day at high school," continues Miss Kerr, "but when I came home from college (I was born and raised on the Eastern Shore of Maryland) I announced to my parents that they had better buy me a typewriter for I was going to be an author. And an author I at once proceeded to be, turning out the most badly looking sheets of manuscript I have ever seen, with the exception of those which my typewriter (second hand) failed me. Then came a few years of nonwriter work in Potomac, Maryland, where I was the bookkeeper at the Gazette Press, where the New York men in preparing them for publication in the world were the most patient and instructive people I have ever known. After Pittsburgh came New York, and a small office in the city where I was a typewriter operator. The small 15 grew into a larger one, and I am still there."

"But if you are in an office all day, when do you find time to write?" Miss Kerr was asked.

"Oh, nights and Saturday afternoons and Sundays and any old ten or fifteen minutes when I am alone at home," she replied. "All this with a highly moral I-love-my-work expression."

"And what do you think is the greatest danger of a writer?"

"Feeling sorry about his work."

FOR PROSPECTIVE OFFICERS

There has been issued a book entitled "An Officer's Notes," by Capt. Ralph M. Parker, U. S. Cavalry, compiled by Lieut. C. C. Griffith, U. S. A., which is composed of the author's lectures to the New York men in preparing them for examinations for commissions in the United States Cavalry, Reserve Corps, together with certain extracts from various War Department manuals. It includes the important data in the Court-Martial Manual, the Small Arms Firing Manual, Company Administration, Notes on Military Shooting and Hygiene, and on Field Service Regulations. In addition to the subjects mentioned there are hints on elementary infantry instruction which should be most valuable to any one engaged in training an infantry company.

This book is highly endorsed by Major-General Wood and many other army officers and is condensed form gives just the information needed by every prospective officer. As the War Department cannot at this time supply the manuals necessary for the instruction of officers, this book fills the want. To those who aspire to commissioned grades in the army this book is most valuable, an excellent coach, and if diligently

studied and learned, will enable most any candidate to pass his examination. Of those who were in Capt. Parker's class and listened to his lectures and who failed in their mental examination, a committee has said:

"An officer's Notes" is published by George F. Harvey, 149 Lafayette street, New York City, and the price is \$2 a copy. It is of handy pocket size and bound in flexible cover.

MALICE IN KULTURLAND
By HORACE WYATT

Illustrated after Tenniel, by W. Tell.

The cleverest parody on Alice in Wonderland ever published.

Springfield Union—The book is full of many happy thoughts. If there were more of such publications the world would be too busy laughing to think of armaments and manifest destinies."—75 cents net. Postage extra. All bookstores.

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By Edgar Rice Burroughs



More Tarzan Thrills

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